

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

DIVISION OF BOTANY  
LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

February 26, 1951

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

When I applied to the NRC and the PHS I stated two plans of research, one in Italy with Buzzati and one in Texas with Wagner. The second was included as an alternative in view of the uncertain international situation. At that time I did not know of the possibility of working with you on bacterial genetics. Because of these alternatives which I have presented to both the NRC and the PHS, I am now hesitant to present another, lest it prejudice my application.

In reply to your third paragraph let me say that either a) microbic antagonisms as isolating mechanisms, or c) genetic divergence would be preferable. I incline to the second rather than the first.

Under the circumstances, and since my application to Public Health has not yet come up for review, would you be willing to approach Stone, asking whether it might be possible to present this new alternative, outlining the project in a general way to him. If he believes that such an action would not prejudice my proposal, then I would submit a new request in accordance with your outline.

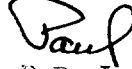
In the event it is necessary for you to find the funds, I would consider problem c) mentioned above as being the one in which I would be most interested. As a minimum and perhaps reasonable stipend I would consider \$3600, the amount offered for PHS Postdoctoral Fellows; anything in excess would not be unappreciated. I have no real distaste for any of the usual sources of support. My only objection might be if there were strings attached to the money, particularly with regard to publication. Since my Predoctoral Fellowship has been sponsored by the AEC, I have been cleared several times. In the event that AEC money is used this may speed up matters.

Elizabeth has applied to Zoology and will hear from the application in April. She has excellent references and grades, and she is quite serious in her desire to do graduate work.

Have you any suggestions as to what might be done with regard to housing? Does the university have a housing office?

I sincerely hope that some support will be found for this venture, for I have become intensely interested and excited about it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul".

R.P. Levine

P.S. If you consider it advisable perhaps you might write C.J. Lapp at the NRC as well as Stone. The NRC Fellowship Board has just recently met.